



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

17

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/686,669

10/17/2003

Man-hee Lee

1572.1168

8270

21171 7590 09/20/2007
STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

PAUL, DISLER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/686,669	Applicant(s) LEE, MAN-HEE	
	Examiner Disler Paul	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/03; 11/27/06; 6/22/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to the applicant's added limitation in the independent claims, the examiner has further consider such claim "the compatible switching and the resultantly connected to appropriate audio circuit" please see the appropriate claims below.

In regard to the claim, 10,11,17, wherein the applicant argue the window with connection port (please see fig.8 with window for troubleshooting and ports connection), similarly, for claim 39 the applicants argument are not persuasive (see appropriate claim with rejection).

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-9; 12-16; 18-19; 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carter et al. ("7,039,205").

Re claim 1, Carter et al. disclose a control method of a computer system having at least one connection port to which an audio apparatus is connected and a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.2-4; col.3 line 56-59"), comprising: selecting the many type of the audio apparatus ("fig.6-8; col.7 line 34-39"); and connecting an audio circuit part cooperable with the selected audio apparatus type from among the

Art Unit: 2615

plurality of the audio circuit parts and one of the connection ports to each other ("fig.3(61,101);col.3 line 64-67/circuit is cooperable with selected audio apparatus"). Each of the connection ports using the same compatible connection standard (fig.3 (101,61); fig.6 (407); col.3 line 47-51/all the connections parts are compatible with the transducer switch (101)) and configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports; it is resultantly connected to a cooperable circuit part (fig.8A-C; col.7/ at connection the user may configure the sound card to cooperatively circuit part for producing signals).

Re claim 2, Carter et al. disclose of the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, wherein the selecting is performed by a type selection program based on an operating system to select the type of the audio apparatus ("fig.6-8; col.7 line 34-39").

Re claim 3, Carter et al. disclose the control method of the computer system according to claim 1, wherein the selecting of the type of the audio apparatus comprises displaying a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a computer system monitor ("fig.6-8").

Re claim 4, The control method of the computer system according to claim 3, further comprising detecting that the audio apparatus is

Art Unit: 2615

connected to the connection port ("col.3 line 63-67"), wherein the user selection window is displayed on the monitor according to the detecting ("fig.6-8").

Re claim 5, Carter et al. disclose of the computer system comprising: at least one connection port to which an audio apparatus is connected ("fig.2(61,63); col.3 line 27-29"), each of the connection ports using the same compatible connection standard (fig.3 (101,61); fig.6 (407); col.3 line 47-51/all the connections parts are compatible with the transducer switch (101)); a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.4; col.4 line 21-25"); and a control part controlling selective connection of the at least one connection port to one of the plurality of the audio circuits operable with the audio apparatus type connected to the at least one connection port ("fig.1-3;col.4 line 63 up to col.5 line 5"), wherein each connection port is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports; it is resultantly connected to a coooperable circuit part (fig.8A-C; col.7/ at connection the user may configure the sound card to coooperatively circuit part for producing signals).

Re claim 6, the computer system according to claim 5, wherein the control part is a machine-readable storage storing a type selection program based on an operating system ("see fig.2(53,55,57)").

Re claim 7, the computer system according to claim 6, further comprising a switching part controlled by the type selection program to selectively connect the plurality of the audio circuit parts and the at least one connection port to each other ("fig.3").

Re claim 8, the computer system according to claim 7, wherein the type selection program displays a user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on a monitor ("fig.1;fig.3; fig.8").

Re claim 9, the computer system according to claim 8, wherein the type selection program displays the user selection window for selecting the type of the audio apparatus on the monitor, upon connection of the audio apparatus to the connection port ("fig.6-8/ for connectiong apparatus to port").

Re claim 12, Carter et al. disclose of a sound card mounted on a computer system and inputting/outputting a sound, comprising: at least one connection port to which an audio apparatus is connected ("fig.2-4"), each of the connection ports using the same compatible connection standard (fig.3 (101,61); fig.6 (407); col.3 line 47-51/all the connections parts are compatible with the transducer switch (101)); a plurality of audio circuit parts operating according to a type of the audio apparatus ("fig.3(61,101);col.3 line 64-67/circuit is cooperable with selected audio apparatus"); and a switching part selectively

Art Unit: 2615

connecting the at least one connection port to one of the plurality of the audio circuit parts operable with the audio apparatus type connected to the at least one connection port ("see fig.4; fig.3(101)"), wherein each connection ports is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audio circuit part (fig.8A-C; col.7/ at connection the user may configure the sound card to cooperatively circuit part for producing signals).

Re claim 13, the sound card according to claim 12, wherein the switching part selectively connects according to a type selection program executing in the computer system ("fig.2; col.3 line 10-14/execute by programs; col.5 line 29-32").

Re claim 14, Carter et al. disclose of the computer sound card, comprising: two or more connection ports to which audio apparatuses are connected ("fig.3/multiple audio to sound cards"), each of the connection ports using the same compatible connection standard (see claim 12 above); and an audio signal processor processing input and/or output audio signals from/to the audio apparatuses connected to any one of the connection ports independent of a type of each audio apparatus ("fig.1,3/fig.5/:the processor (audio switch see fig.3(101)) processor to configured independently the multiple audio signals receive/ outputted"), wherein each connection ports is configured so

that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audio circuit (see claim 12 rejection).

Re claim 15, the computer sound card of claim 14, wherein the audio signal processor comprises: at least one audio circuit compatible with the type of the audio apparatus; and a controllable controller selectively connecting each connection port to the audio circuit parts compatible with the audio apparatus type connected to each connection port ("fig.4(207); col.4 line 64 up to col.5 line 5").

Re claim 16, Carter et al. disclose the machine-readable storage storing at least one program controlling a multimedia component of a computer according to a process comprising (fig.1-3): displaying a connection port selection window (fig.8A); selecting a multimedia apparatus type for at least one connection port; and controlling the multimedia component to connect the at least one connection port to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to the selection (fig.8A-8C; col.7/user has option to select for controlling output transducer via computer(fig.1-2)) and wherein each connection port uses the same compatible connection standard and is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audi circuit part (see claim 1 rejection).

Re claim 18. Carter et al. disclose of the computer system, comprising: a multimedia component having two or more same standard connection ports; and a programmed computer processor detecting connection of a multimedia apparatus to one of the connection ports ("fig.4 with (205); col.4 line 53-60"), displaying a graphical user interface comprising connection port images corresponding to the connection ports of the multimedia component, activating multimedia apparatus type selection menus for each connection port image, and controlling the multimedia component to connect the one connection port connected to the detected multimedia apparatus to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to a multimedia apparatus type selection in the activated multimedia apparatus type selection menu for the one connection port ("fig.8/menu enable user to activate connection port configuration and further fig.3(61,101);col.3 line 64-67/circuit is cooperable/compatible with selected audio apparatus for various audio port connections")), wherein each of the connection ports using the same compatible connection standard and is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports; it is resultantly connected to a coooperable circuit part (see claim 1 rejection).

Art Unit: 2615

Re claim 19, Carter et al. disclose of the method of informing a user of a connection status in a device having a plurality of audio signal input and/or output ports ("fig.4(205)/among plurality of input/output detecting circuit available; col.3 line 64-67"), the method comprising detecting which one of the input and/or output ports is currently connected to an external device ("fig.4(205);col.4 line 52-55"); and outputting a first detection signal for detecting at least one port which has the external device connected thereto ("col.5 line 44-51/detecting signal for informing status of phone connections and output via (fig.8) for enabling configuration"), and wherein each connection port uses the same compatible connection standard and is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audi circuit part (see claim 1 rejection).

Re claim 21, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal at a first time and receiving another audio signal at a second time using a single port ("col.4 line 53 up to col.5 line 5/ off hook to send info and configuration/second info signals may be received via single or a port as disclosed and futher see fig.4(209)").

Re claim 22, the method according to claim 21, wherein the sending an audio signal at a first time comprises of sending a speaker

Art Unit: 2615

signal generated from a sound generating device in a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 23, The method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving an audio signal from an external device ("col.1 line 32;fig.3/among multiple external device is a mike to send audio signal").

Re claim 24, the method according to claim 21, wherein the receiving another audio signal at a second time comprises of receiving audio signal from a mike ("col.4 line 9-20").

Re claim 25, the method according to claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of input and/or output port is capable of receiving and sending audio signal to and from the external device ("fig.4(209) with external device from (201,203)").

Re claim 26, the method according to claim 19, further comprising sending an audio signal generated from a sound generating device of a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 27, the method according to claim 26, wherein the computer is a personal computer("fig.1").

Re claim 28, the method according to claim 26, further comprising receiving an audio signal generated from the external device ("see claim 25").

Re claim 29, the method according to claim 28, wherein the external device includes a microphone ("col.7 line 49-55/headset mike").

Re claim 30, the method according to claim 29, wherein the computer is a personal computer ("fig.1").

Re claim 31, the method according to claim 29, wherein the external device includes a device capable of generating an audio output capable of being connected to a line-in port of a computer ("fig.3; col.3 line 49-56").

Re claim 32, the method according to claim 31, wherein the computer is a personal computer ("fig.1").

Re claim 33, the method according to claim 19, further comprising assigning a function to the detected port in the detecting step ("col.4 line 57-61/detector(205) direct operation of controller (207) which enable the function of col.5 line 1-5").

Re claim 34, The method according to claim 33, wherein the assigning a function comprises of selecting either of receiving an audio signal function or sending an audio signal function ("fig.3-4; and further see col.5 line 5-18").

Re claim 35, the method according to claim 34, wherein the receiving an audio signal function includes receiving an audio signal from an external device comprising a mike ("col.7 line 49-55/headset mike").

Re claim 36, the method according to claim 35, wherein the sending an audio signal function includes sending an audio signal generated from a sound generating device of a computer ("col.1 line 4/speakers").

Re claim 37, the method according to claim 36, wherein the computer is a personal ("fig.1").

Re claim 38, the method according to claim 36, wherein the step of assigning a function or the sending function is performed in accordance with a user input ("fig.8; col.7 line 40-47; fig.1-2/assign function done by user input").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-11, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter et al. ("7,039,205") and further in view of Fado et al. ("6,504,553 B2").

Re claim 10, Carter et al. disclose the computer system according to claim 9, However, Carter et al. fail to disclose of the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port. But, Fado et al. disclose a system with sound card in which include the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port ("fig.8;col.3 line 40-50") for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting when it appears of the existence of wrong audio connection. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Carter et al. and Fado et al. as a whole, it would have been obvious for one

Art Unit: 2615

of the ordinary skill in the art to modify Carter et al. by incorporating the the further limitation wherein in the user selection window is a connection port display window to display whether the audio apparatus is connected to a corresponding connection port via each displayed connection port for the purpose of helping a user through troubleshooting when it appears of the existence of wrong audio connection as taught by Fado et al.

Re claim 11, the computer system according to claim 10, wherein the port display window provides an audio apparatus type selection button for each displayed connection port, and the type selection program controls the switching part so that if the audio apparatus type selection button is selected for a displayed connection port, the connection port corresponding to the displayed connection port with the selected audio apparatus type selection button is activated by connecting the audio circuit part corresponding to the selected audio apparatus type selection button with the corresponding connection port ("Fado, fig.1-8; col.5 line 65 up to col.6 line 6; col.7 line 30-37/user may select through display connection port").

Re claim 16, Carter et al. disclose the machine-readable storage storing at least one program controlling a multimedia component of a

Art Unit: 2615

computer according to a process comprising (fig.1-3): displaying a connection port selection window (fig.8A); selecting a multimedia apparatus type for at least one connection port; and controlling the multimedia component to connect the at least one connection port to a compatible information signal processor of the multimedia component according to the selection (fig.8A-8C; col.7/user has option to select for controlling output transducer via computer(fig.1-2)) and wherein each connection port uses the same compatible connection standard and is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audi circuit part (see claim 1 rejection).

Re claim 17 have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 11 above.

6. Claims 20,39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter et al. ("7,039,205") and further in view of Choi et al. ("2003/0041189 A1").

Re claim 20, Carter et al. disclose of the method according to claim 19, However, Carter et al. fail to disclose of the further

Art Unit: 2615

limitation comprising displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. However, Choi disclose a computer system with operation status in which there exist of the further limitation comprising displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal ("fig.1,5-6; page 1[0011] detect connection and display status as result") for the purpose of providing the user the operating state of the device. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Carter et al. and Choi et al. as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify Carter by incorporating the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal for purpose of providing the user the operating state of the device as taught by choi.

Re claim 39, Carter et al disclose a method of informing a user of a connection status in a device having a plurality of signal input and/or output ports ("fig.1-8"), the method comprising: detecting which one of the input and/or output ports is currently connected to an external device; outputting a first detection signal for detecting at least one port which has the external device connected thereto ("col. 4 line 30-52/detectin mean(off/on hook) and outputting detecting signal with; and further see col.5 line 44-51/detecting signal for informing status of phone connections and output via (fig.8) for enabling configuration"), and wherein each connection port

Art Unit: 2615

uses the same compatible connection standard and is configured so that when an audio apparatus is connected to one of the connection ports, it is resultantly connected to an appropriate audi circuit part (see claim 1 rejection). ; and assigning a function to the detected port ("col.4 line 57-61/detector(205) direct operation of controller (207) which enable the function of col.5 line 1-5"); wherein the assigning function comprises of selecting either one of receiving a signal from an external device or sending a signal to an external device ("fig.3-4; and further see col.5 line 5-18").

While, carter et al. disclose of the above limitation, he fail to further disclose of the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. However, Choi disclose a computer system with operation status in which there exist of the further limitation comprising displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal. ("fig.1,5-6; page 1[0011] detect connection and display status as result") for the purpose of providing the user the operating state of the device. Thus, taking the combined teaching of Carter et al. and Choi et al. as a whole, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify Carter by incorporating the displaying an indication to the user in dependence of the first signal for purpose of providing the user the operating state of the device as taught by choi.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Disler Paul whose telephone number is 571-270-1187. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DP


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2200